

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 27, 2005, the drawings were objected to as not showing every feature of claim 16; the specification is objected to as not describing every feature of claim 16; claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,433,444 to Smith; and claims 16-24 were allowed.

Applicant has cancelled, without prejudice, claims 16-23 to overcome the rejection to the drawings and the specification. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 16-23 in a continuation application.

Claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by Smith. To anticipate a claim, a reference must disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every element of the claim. See MPEP § 2131.01. Claim 1 includes the limitation of "the mounting plate and the cover being adapted to exert axial pressure on the radial flange". This axial pressure is applied to prevent the support arm from unwanted rotation relative to the mounting and cover plates.

The description of Fig. 2 in Smith included in the Office Action, contradicts express statements included in Smith itself. Particularly, that description states that Fig. 2 of Smith "clearly show[s] that the mounting plate (10) and the cover (12) apply pressure on the radial flange (18 and 20) by clamping thereon when the screw is applied." Smith, in contrast, states that "[t]he [radial flanges] 20 are slidably disposed in an annular slot defined by [the mounting plate] 10 and [the cover] 12." Col. 3, ll. 58-60. If the mounting plate (10) and the cover (12) applied axial pressure on the radial flanges 20 in Smith, then the radial flanges 20 *could not be* slidably disposed in the annular slot as Smith discloses. Instead, the radial flanges 20 disclosed in Smith are captive in the annular slot so that the radial flanges are free to rotate within the annular slot. Because the radial flanges 20 are free to rotate, Smith impliedly discloses that the mounting plate (10) and the cover (12) apply no axial pressure on the radial flanges 20. Furthermore,

because the radial flanges 20 are captive in the slot, they will not “slide out of the shoulder when the articulating arm is being rotated or moved” as asserted in the Office Action. For these reasons, Smith does not disclose all the limitations of, and therefore does not anticipate, claim 1.

Claims 2, 4, and 6-8 each ultimately depend from amended claim 1. As such, where Smith does not anticipate amended claim 1, it also does not anticipate these dependent claims.

Claim 3 was also rejected as anticipated by Smith. Claim 3 also includes the limitation of “the mounting plate and the cover being adapted to exert axial pressure on the radial flange”. As discussed above in reference to amended claim 1, Smith does not disclose this limitation and therefore does not anticipate claim 3.

Claim 9 was also rejected as anticipated by Smith. Claim 9 also includes the limitation of “the mounting plate and the cover being adapted to exert axial pressure on the radial flange”. As discussed above in reference to amended claim 1, Smith does not disclose this limitation and therefore does not anticipate claim 9.

Claims 10, 11, 13, and 15 each ultimately depend from amended claim 9. As such, where Smith does not anticipate amended claim 9, it also does not anticipate these dependent claims.

Claim 14 was also rejected as anticipated by Smith. Claim 14 also includes the limitation of “the mounting plate and the cover being adapted to exert axial pressure on the radial flange”. As discussed above in reference to amended claim 1, Smith does not disclose this limitation and therefore does not anticipate amended claim 14.

Claim 25 was also rejected as anticipated by Smith. Claim 25 includes the limitation of “the cover and the plate include means for exerting axial pressure on the radial flange”. As discussed above in relation to claim 1, Smith does not disclose this limitation. Smith therefore does not anticipate claim 25.


Claims 26-28 each ultimately depend from claim 25. As such, where Smith does not anticipate claim 25, it also does not anticipate these dependent claims.

In view of the above, Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

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By: 
David M. Morse
Reg. No. 50,505

Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.
865 South Figueroa Street
Twenty-Ninth Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017-2576
(213) 892-9200